

WHAT IS CLAIMED

1. A discard rack that moves and reads suit and rank of individual cards between a card in-feed area and a card collection area, the discard rack comprising:

5 a card in-feed area with card moving elements that move individual cards from a set of cards in the card in-feed area,

 a card collection area that receives cards from the card moving area in the same order as cards are received in the card in-feed area,

10 an image capture device that captures data from a card before the card is received in the card collection area,

 a communication port to send out captured data to a processor, and

 an elevator that lowers to maintain a level at which cards are received in the card collection area.

15 2. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein the elevator raises cards to assist in manual card removal.

 3. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein the card moving elements move only bottom card, and wherein the card moving elements comprise rollers.

20 4. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein the image capture device operates discontinuously.

 5. The discard rack of claim 4 wherein the image capture device is triggered to capture an image by a sensor that senses card location.

25 6. The discard rack of claim 5 wherein the sensor that senses card location senses passage or presence of a card edge.

7. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein a jam recovery program is in memory communicating with the discard rack.

5 8. The discard rack of claim 7 wherein jam recovery is initiated by a command entered on the discard rack.

9. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein the communication port is communicatively connected to an external processor.

10 10. The discard rack of claim 9 wherein the external processor is also communicatively connected to a second device that reads the suit rank and order of cards before the cards are used in play of a casino table card game.

15 11. The discard rack of claim 10 wherein both the discard rack and the second device are present on a casino table.

12. A discard rack that moves individual cards from a card in-feed area to card collection area and reads both suit and rank of each card before the card is deposited in the card collection area, the discard rack comprising:

20 a card in-feed area with card moving elements that move only a bottom card from a set of cards in the card in-feed area,

 a card collection area that receives cards from the card moving area in the same sense as cards are received in the card in-feed area,

25 an image capture device that captures data from a card while the card is in the card in-feed area,

 a communication port to send out captured data to a processor, and

 an elevator that lowers to maintain a level at which cards are received in the card collection area.

13. A method of reading cards at a casino card table comprising feeding a set of cards into a hand in-feed area, moving cards one at a time from a bottom of the set of cards in the in-feed area, reading the suit and rank of each card before the card is deposited into a card collection area, depositing each card in the card collection area in the same order and sense that cards had been fed into the card in-feed area.

5 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the card collection area is an elevator with a support surface, and the support surface is lowered as more cards are fed into the card collection area.

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15. The method of claim 13 wherein images of symbols representing suit and rank are taken discontinuously.

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16. The method of claim 15 wherein snapshot images of symbols are triggered by cards being sensed by trigger sensors.

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